

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. The specification has been amended to correct a minor informality. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10-13, and 15 have been amended. Claims 16-21 have been added. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-8 and 10-21 are presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Webber (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0039209). Applicant reserves the right to swear behind Webber. Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Webber.

Webber discloses a method for reporting errors in a flow of successive messages containing at least one packet. The method includes detecting a transmission error in a packet and then deferring the reporting of the transmission error. The method processes the deferred transmission error when it receives an acknowledgement pertinent to an immediately preceding message flow. (Webber at page 1, paragraph [0005].)

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

A method, comprising:

receiving a completion packet at a receiving device, the completion packet including a completor identification;
determining whether the completion packet received from the identified completor is expected by the receiving device;
and

discarding the completion packet if the completion packet is not expected;

wherein the receiving device includes a general input/output communication port implementing a communication stack including a transaction layer, a data link layer, and a physical layer, the transaction layer to receive the completion packet.

Applicant submits that Webber does not disclose or suggest a receiving device including a general input/output communication port implementing a communication stack including a transaction layer, a data link layer, and a physical layer, the transaction layer to receive the completion packet. Applicant can find no disclosure or suggestion of such a feature anywhere in Webber. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Webber.

Claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 16, and 17 depend from claim 1 and include additional limitations. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 16, and 17 are also patentable over Webber.

Claim 4 also recites, in part, a receiving device including a general input/output communication port implementing a communication stack including a transaction layer, a data link layer, and a physical layer, the transaction layer to receive the completion packet. As discussed above, Webber does not disclose or suggest such a feature. Therefore, claim 4 is patentable over Webber for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claims 5, 6, 13, 18, and 19 depend from claim 4 and include additional limitations. Therefore, claims 5, 6, 13, 18 and 19 are also patentable over Webber.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 7-8 and 10-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Webber (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0039209) in view of Garcia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,343). Applicant submits that the present claim are patentable over Webber even in view of Garcia.

Garcia discloses a system for facilitating both in-order and out-of-order packet reception in a system area network including a requester and responder nodes that

maintain local copies of a message sequence number. Each request packet includes an ordering field specifying whether the packets must be received in order. The request node includes a copy of the local sequence number in each packet transmitted and increments its local copy of the sequence number only for packets that must be received in order. The responder node includes the received message sequence number in all response packets and increments its local copy of the message sequence number only if the ordering field specifies that the packets must be received in order. (Garcia at Abstract.)

Claim 7, as amended, recites:

A method, comprising:
servicing a request packet from a requesting device at a completor device, the request packet including a requestor identification and a tag;
transmitting a completion packet with a completion status other than successful from the completor device to the requesting device if an error condition exists;
storing the requestor identification at a location in the completor device if the error condition exists; and
indicating in a register in the completor device that a completion packet with a completor status other than successful was transmitted if the error condition exists;
wherein the completor device includes a general input/output communication port implementing a communication stack including a transaction layer, a data link layer, and a physical layer, the transaction layer to receive the request packet and to transmit the completion packet.

As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Webber does not disclose or suggest a completor device including a general input/output communication port implementing a communication stack including a transaction layer, a data link layer, and a physical layer, the transaction layer to receive the request packet and to transmit the completion packet.

Furthermore, Garcia does not remedy the deficiencies of Webber as it also does not

disclose or suggest such a feature. Therefore, neither Webber nor Garcia, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest the features of claim 7. As such, claim 7 is patentable over Webber in view of Garcia. Claims 8, 10, 14, 15, 20, and 21 depend from claim 7 and include additional limitations. Therefore, claims 8, 10, 14, 15, 20, and 21 are also patentable over Webber in view of Garcia.

Claim 12 depends from independent claim 1 and claim 13 depends from independent claim 4. As discussed above, claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Webber. Furthermore, Garcia does not disclose or suggest the features of claims 1 or 4. Therefore, as dependent claims necessarily include the limitations of their independent claims, any combination of Webber and Garcia does not disclose or suggest the features of claims 12 and 13. As such, claims 12 and 13 are patentable over Webber in view of Garcia.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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